



MINUTES
Environmental Sustainability Commission
Regular Meeting of June 5, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Swaminathan, O'Donnell, Rennels, Moore, and Chair Godfrey. Commissioner Obata arrived at 4:12 p.m.

Oral Communications: There were no written or oral communications.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from March 6, 2014 were approved unanimously.

Staff welcomed Councilmember Vinnie Bacon who was in attendance.

In respect of the time for the guest presenters, Chair Godfrey suggested the presentations from Rising Sun Energy Center and Stopwaste be moved to Item 5.1 on the agenda and Chair Godfrey's presentation be moved to Item 5.2.

Presentation from Stopwaste and Rising Sun Energy Center:

First, Lou Riordan of Stopwaste discussed how the City of Fremont has partnered with Stopwaste to deliver the Fremont Energy Challenge to Fremont residents. The Fremont Energy Challenge encourages residents to sign up for the Home Energy Analyzer – a free online tool that uses advanced analytics to monitor a home's energy use and provide specific tips to help save money and make a home more comfortable. For each resident who signs up for the tool, a \$5 donation will be made to the Fremont libraries. Furthermore, Stopwaste has partnered with Dale Hardware to offer discounts on energy efficient equipment for those residents who have signed up for the Home Energy Analyzer. A kick-off workshop was held on June 3 at the Fremont Main Library with about 20 attendees, which was lower than previous similar workshops they have hosted in Fremont, but it could have been due to the fact it was also voting day. Stopwaste has also been working with Green Pro Network to conduct door-to-door canvassing over the last two weekends of May, generating approximately 40 additional Home Energy Analyzer sign ups (Fremont already had about 80). The overall goal of the Fremont Energy Challenge is to generate a minimum of 200 additional sign-ups to the Home Energy Analyzer tool by September 30, 2014. Lou provided a live demonstration of the tool to the Commission, and questions were asked regarding the average savings the tool has reported as well as the types of recommendations the tool makes.

Next, Jennifer Wolfrom of Rising Sun presented on the CYES Program, which has been offered every summer (and one fall) in the City of Fremont since 2009. The CYES Program trains 8

local youth and 1 LIFT (Leader-in-Field-Training) to conduct free “Green House Calls” for Fremont residents under the direction of a Fremont-based Site Manager and Outreach Manager. Residents receiving Green House calls have energy- and water-efficient equipment installed in their homes and are provided with education and resources to assist them in reducing their utility bills. The goal for each site is to conduct 250 Green House Calls, and already they have 375 people signed up. This year, one new offering is that 1 LED light bulb will be provided per home, as well as an LED night light. Rising Sun also is working to host a tree planting this year to offset the carbon emissions resulting from driving to each home – they are talking with the Tri City Ecology Center to identify a good location for this, and are also trying to participate in Fremont’s Make a Difference Day.

The Commission was pleased to learn of these opportunities. Rachel DiFranco agreed to email the contact information for both Lou and Jennifer to the Commission so that these programs can be marketed to their own networks, such as homeowner’s associations, neighborhood associations, and other community-based organizations.

Presentation and Discussion of Sustainability Showcase Concept:

Chair Richard Godfrey delivered a slideshow presentation to the Commission on a Sustainability Showcase idea he developed, specifically looking at the 20 acre California Nursery Historical Park land located in the Niles District that is currently undergoing a Master Planning Process with the City of Fremont. The presentation touched on the historical nature of the property, which was once a 400 plus acre nursery operation founded in 1865 that provided hundreds of trees and shrubs to Golden Gate Park and maintained a vast amount of rose, fruit tree, and ornamental varieties. Right now, the land is not occupied by any commercial interests, but LEAF has been allowed to develop a community garden of raised-beds on a .7 acre parcel of it, and is also maintaining the existing Rose Garden. Also, Joyce Blueford of the Math Science Nucleus is working with the CalNurCo Legacy Council to archive a number of historical documents provided by the Roeding family on the site’s historic significance. There were two different buildings that Chair Godfrey focused on within the park, one being the Office Building (currently being used by MSN/CalNurCo) and the other being the Landers House, which served as the office headquarters of the now defunct Naka/Mission Adobe Nursery. Chair Godfrey discussed the concept of utilizing one of these spaces as a gathering place for meetings, workshops, and other sustainability-oriented events as well as a location for information and resources on gardening, green building, and sustainable living practices. Chair Godfrey stated that this type of sustainability center would fit into the context of a number of the recommendations proposed in 2008 by the Mayor-appointed Green Task Force for community engagement.

Georgetown University Energy Prize

Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco discussed the City of Fremont’s intended participation in the Georgetown University Energy Prize (GUEP), a two year (2015-2016) challenge among communities across the nation to best demonstrate innovative, replicable, scalable and continual reductions in the per capita energy consumed from local natural gas and electric utilities at the Residential, Municipal, and Public School levels with a \$5 million prize to

be awarded to the best performing community. In order to compete, the City must submit an application by June 30 including a summary of existing energy efforts, a Letter of Support from the Mayor, and additional Letters of Support from community groups. The Commission suggested reaching out to the following groups:

- Palo Alto Medical Foundation (Chair Godfrey)
- Kaiser Permanente (Chair Godfrey)
- BART (Commissioner Rennels)
- Fremont Chamber of Commerce (Commissioner Moore)
- Tesla (Commissioner Moore said she could talk to Daniel Witt but thought that Economic Development Director Kelly Kline might be better positioned to make the ask)
- Tri-City Ecology Center (Commissioner O'Donnell)
- Fremont Unified School District (Commissioner Moore)
- Alameda County Water District (undecided – Commissioner Moore mentioned asking Walt Wadlow)
- Glenmoor Homeowners Association (Commissioner Swaminathan)
- Glenmoor Elementary School (Commissioner Swaminathan)
- Other clean tech companies that might be interested (Oorja, Solaria, and PetersenDean were mentioned but there was no commitment to follow up with any them)

Rachel DiFranco stated that she has already received a Letter of Support from Sallie Pine, Manager of the Fremont Libraries, and has requested letters from the Fremont Council PTA President Ujjwala Gadgil and Washington Hospital Green Team Manager Paul Kelly.

The Commission expressed its overall enthusiasm for the GUEP. Commissioner Rennels made a motion to approve Chair Godfrey or his designee to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Commission regarding the City of Fremont's participation in the Georgetown University Energy Challenge. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion. The motion was then approved unanimously by the commission. Staff member Rachel DiFranco agreed to email Chair Godfrey with additional information and a draft letter that he could use as a template to craft the letter.

City of Fremont “Sustainability” Webpage:

Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco discussed how she is working on a “Sustainability” section of the City website to fall under “Our Community”. She briefly talked about the elements it would cover – waste, water, transportation, energy, green business, and green building, providing information on the City's CAP goals and progress as well as information and resources for residents and businesses on how they can take action. In respect to time, DiFranco asked that any Commissioner interested in providing feedback please stay after the meeting to discuss one on one. Commissioner Swaminathan agreed to stay and provide feedback.

Project Updates:

Sustainability Coordinator Rachel DiFranco debriefed the Fremont Earth Day festival with the commission, highlighting that Commissioners Obata and Rennels both were in attendance and

sat at the Fremont Sustainability booth with her. Commissioners Obata and Rennels both commented that it was a great event that they enjoyed. Chair Godfrey mentioned that Donna Olsen of the Tri-City Ecology Center is interested in seeing Earth Day return to Central Park where it used to be held before migrating to Washington Hospital.

Fremont Deputy Director of Community Development Dan Schoenholz provided updates on the following City projects:

1. The City is currently in contract negotiations with Sun Edison on the Regional Renewable Energy Procurement (R-REP) for the installation of large solar carport arrays at four municipal locations, amounting to approximately 1.3 MW of solar. The pricing offered in Sun Edison's proposal is highly competitive for either a direct purchase or a power-purchase agreement; both options are currently being considered by finance.
2. The City is currently reviewing the proposals that resulted from a comprehensive energy audit executed Chevron Energy Solutions. CES has detailed opportunities for interior and exterior facility lighting, street lighting, HVAC systems, water pumps, solar PV and solar thermal installations. The pricing for solar on the four R-REP sites was not competitive in the CES proposal. Therefore, the City is considering a CES proposal that omits the four R-REP sites, but does consider a large ground mounted PV array under the Renewable Energy Self-Generation Bill Credit Transfer Program (RES-BCT) that would generate enough electricity to offset 18 other municipal facilities.
3. Fremont received a response to the re-issued car share pilot program RFP from Zipcar. The proposal is fairly straightforward as the City is offering Zipcar designated parking spaces at no cost in return for tracking and reporting vehicle usage statistics. Zipcar requested a number of minor contract revisions that staff will need to vet with the City's legal department before moving forward with an official contract. The commission was pleased to hear of this progress and is excited to see the pilot implemented.

Rachel DiFranco also provided an update on the Downtown Fremont project, which will begin phase 1 this summer with street widening and the demolition of the Citibank building. Commissioner Obata suggested that the new downtown incorporate emerging green building design concepts such as living walls that provide greenery as well as assist with building cooling needs.

Commissioner Announcements:

None.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



Rachel DiFranco
Sustainability Coordinator